

January 3, 2014

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Reform taking hold at 36th District Court

The editorial states "Slowly but steadily, Michigan Appeals Court Judge Michael J. Talbot is using his financial and organizational gavel to make significant improvements in the operations of Detroit's disorganized 36th District Court. Talbot, the court's special judicial administrator, recently paused to assess how the court has progressed, and concluded despite substantial progress in righting the court's finances, there's still a lot of work to do. And his job won't be finished without more cooperation from the unions representing court employees."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Mental health court legislation signed into law

"State Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr. is hailing new legislation that expands Michigan's mental health court program, saying such courts are 'changing lives.' The legislation was signed into law Monday by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. Young said the legislation represents 'common-sense, good government reform.' "

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Mental health court bills hailed by Chief Justice Young as "good government reform"

[Press release](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Single fathers seek equal opportunity; They say field isn't level in child custody

"... According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 4 percent of children live with single fathers compared to 23.7 percent of children who live with single mothers. Many single fathers believe family courts are inherently biased against fathers, although there are plenty of experts who dismiss that as a myth, citing statistics that show that, in general, mothers — even working mothers — are more involved in the lives of their children and are, thus, more likely to win custody disputes."

[Full story](#)

The Courier-Leader/Paw Paw: Jeffrey Dufon sworn in as Circuit Court judge

"In a phone call just before Thanksgiving, Governor Rick Snyder asked Jeffrey J. Dufon of Mattawan to join his team and help 'reinvent Michigan.' Dufon, a resident of Antwerp Township for more than 20 years, was sworn in Friday afternoon, Dec. 20, as judge of the 36th Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren."

[Full story](#)

The Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton: Drug Court keeps abusers out of jail and prison

"For Houghton County 97th District Court Judge Mark Wisti, locking up people with substance abuse problems who end up in the criminal justice system is not only a waste of time, it's ineffective as prevention. Wisti said the idea of a drug court is to deal with defendants who come into the court system with substance abuse problems as having a health issue rather than a criminal issue."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Snyder sides with dark money

The editorial states "Anyone who hoped Gov. Rick Snyder might stand in defense of campaign finance transparency in Michigan elections can discard that desire. The governor sided with the dark money crowd. In signing Senate Bill 661 into law last week, Snyder said it will 'bring an unprecedented level of transparency and openness to the state's political system.' "

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Judge shares court's core values, culture of service while in Uganda

"... In the Ugandan legal system, that sense of trust and fairness has been lacking among its citizens, whether legitimately or only in perception. One of Michigan's most respected judges, the Hon. Cynthia Stephens, was invited recently to help turn around that perception."

[Full story](#)

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: SJ lawyer seeks judgeship; Donna Howard works for Berrien County

"Donna Howard, who handles legal work for Berrien County as corporate counsel, announced she is a candidate for district court judge in this year's election. A lawyer for more than 16 years, Howard said that as judge, she could draw on a lot of experience in private practice and working in-house for the county.... She is the third person to become a candidate for a judgeship [now held by Judge Scott Schofield, who is running for a circuit court judgeship]."

[Full story](#)

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Child support failure leads to prison time; BH man sent to prison as habitual offender

"A Benton Harbor man who amassed a back child support debt of more than \$45,000 has been sentenced to a 1-4 year prison term. Adrian M. Thompson, 34, pleaded guilty in Berrien County Trial Court to failing to pay support to Andrea Gunn and to the state Department of Human Services."

[Full story](#)

Holland Sentinel: Allegan drug treatment court counts successes day by day

"They were counting the days in Allegan County District Court: 236; 220; 166 days of sobriety. 'Six hundred thirty-three days, by the way,' said a smiling woman with tears in her eyes, a certificate of achievement in her hand after hugging Judge William Baillargeon during the Adult Drug Treatment Court graduation ceremony on Monday [December 30]."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Top legal news of the year

"2013 presented a wide range of legal news in Michigan. New leadership and layoffs at the 36th District Court. The lightning-fast relocation of the Court of Claims. Judicial misconduct charges hit new levels. Business courts in full swing. A Supreme Court justice goes to jail. Controversial new court rules. A law school twice in court. Here are some of the most popular legal topics and stories of 2013."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: Le Divorce Sans Judge

"This is this morning's headline, picked-up by the major news outlets of the world on the occasion of a new French law that takes effect today. In France, if a couple meets certain administrative requirements when filing for divorce, which place them into a 'no contest' or 'pro confesso' category, then they can obtain a divorce decree without a judge ever having looked at their case file; just a clerk.... Here in America, and specifically, here in Oakland County, Michigan, an uncontested divorce barely gets on a family court judge's radar."

[Full story](#)